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Fall 1978 Volume 4 Number 3



Muskets, Mugs, Bugles & Blankets

Museum Gets Part of Lord Collection

From muskets to mugs, from bugles to blankets, from canteens to crutches, your Museum Commission recently enriched its holdings by purchasing a portion of the military collection of Dr. Francis A. Lord. Dr. Lord, now retired after a notable career in the military, government service, and teaching, spent a lifetime collecting objects relating to American military life from the Revolution to Vietnam. His primary interest, however, was and is the Civil War, a subject upon which he has authored six books, including the two-volume **Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia**, virtually the bible of the subject. Last June Dr. Lord sold his enormous collection, at which time we were able to acquire a small but excellent sample.

Although it contained a fine array of weapons, the Lord Collection emphasized objects associated with the daily life of the soldier: clothing, accouterments, tools, cooking and eating utensils, grooming items, containers, recreational objects, musical instruments, and medical equipment. Most of the Civil War material related to the Union side of the conflict, but there was also some fine Confederate material, including a number of choice items from South Carolina. After making sure we had the South Carolina material, we acquired some Union equipment, since the Union armies had a very real impact on our state. We also picked up a variety of items simply typical of the mid-nineteenth century. In all, the objects acquired number over 200.



Dr. Frank A. Lord, left, and Guy F. Lipscomb, Jr., chairman of the SCMC, examine a sword manufactured in Columbia, one of many items the Commission acquired from Dr. Lord's collection.

News is published three times a year by the South Carolina Museum Commission. The Commission is a state agency, the purpose of which is to plan, build, and operate a state museum of cultural history, natural history, science, and art.

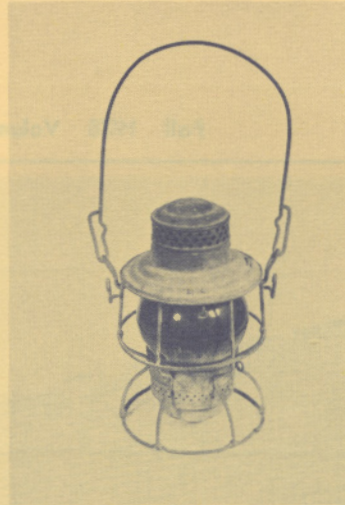
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Charleston (District 1)



Southern Railway lantern



Three medical items

Some of the more noteworthy are a Remington musket stamped "South Carolina - CSA - 1861," a Palmetto Armory musket, a sword made in Columbia, a Confederate tin canteen in excellent condition, a knapsack that apparently belonged to a South Carolina officer, a Hampton Legion jacket (probably part of a reunion uniform), a pair of Civil War binoculars, a Southern Railway lantern, and an infamous carpet bag.

A few of the objects relate to the American Revolution. Choice items are a "Brown Bess" musket (a British weapon), two wooden canteens, a brass beltplate and two brass gorgets, a leather cartridge box, a folding fork, a pocket knife, and an American bayonet. All of the Revolutionary material was exhibited two years ago at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, as part of a special international exhibition entitled "1776." Sponsored by Barclays Bank and **The Times** of London, the exhibition was seen by over 400,000 people.

Many of these objects will go on display at the State House or the Archives in the coming months. Others may be lent to museums elsewhere in the state. Ultimately all will help the State Museum tell the story of our state's turbulent history.

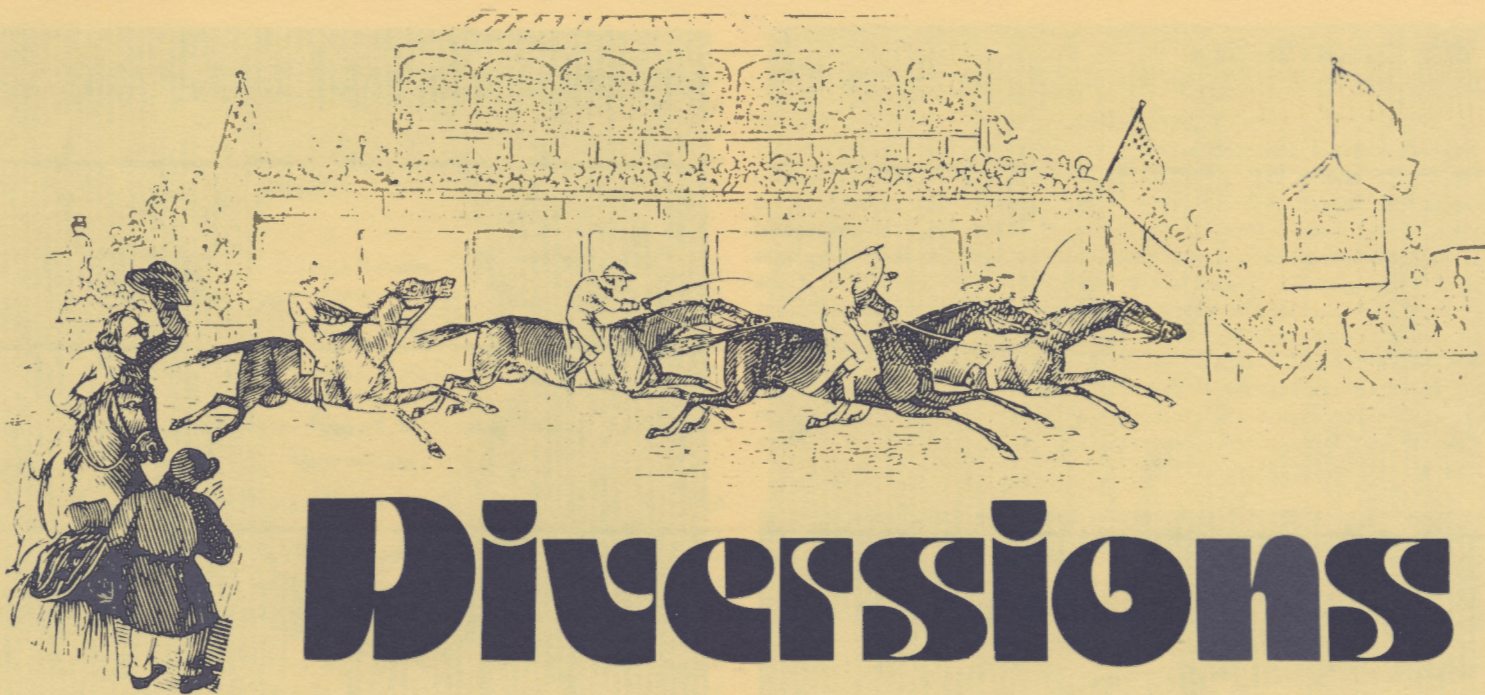
Cover Photo: The Morgans arrive at their new home near Woodruff in Spartanburg County. For the first time in their lives they have electric lights. This photograph, taken on January 21, 1941, is part of a traveling exhibit sponsored by the SCMC: Agriculture in South Carolina during the 1930's and 1940's. Photo courtesy of the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Mr. Rudolph E. Mancke, Curator of Natural History
Mrs. Bonnie M. Morrison, Staff Assistant
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Diversions

A race won by the horse finishing last, grinning contests, diving for apples, gander pulling and cudgel play—such were among the bizarre and often bloody amusements advertised in the pages of the **South Carolina Gazette**, from 1732 to 1775 the colony's principal newspaper.

Our colonial forebears were a hard-working lot, with far less leisure than we enjoy. Yet they found time to support a variety of diversions and entertainments that made Charles Town the liveliest city in British America.

Then as today, athletic prowess was much appreciated. Foot races were popular, the usual distances being one-half mile and a mile. Even the fair sex occasionally got into the action. In 1752 at the Childsberry Fair two ladies ran for a hoop petticoat. One wonders at their racing attire. For those who preferred less strenuous recreation, billiards and lawn bowling provided hours of pleasure.

In many sports and pastimes athleticism and skill took a back seat to violence. The eighteenth-century American, like his English cousin, enjoyed his amusements bloody. At the agricultural fairs held in the spring and fall, forms of organized mayhem were a popular attraction. In cudgel play, for instance, opponents clubbed one another with heavy sticks having woven-basket headguards, the winner being he who first drew crimson from his adversary's head. Animals were the more frequent victims, however. In one popular diversion, dogs were set against staked bulls and bears. In another, called goose-riding or gander-pulling, a plump bird, with its neck well greased, was hung by the feet from a limb or from a rope stretched between two poles; the competitors, thundering past on horseback at full speed, tried to snatch off its head. The winner, of course, got the goose.

King of the blood sports, and a mania among all social classes, was cock fighting. Contests pitted individuals, groups, even whole communities against one another. Often matches were the result of challenges trumpeted in the **Gazette**, such as, "There is at the House of Mr. Ch. Shepheard a muffled Cock, named BOUGRE DE SOT, that will fight against any Cock in the Province." What self-respecting cock owner could resist such a summons to combat?

Poor Bougre de Sot almost certainly lost his life in the pit, for the birds, their natural spurs filed to a point or augmented by metal blades, usually fought to the death. A well-matched pair could duel as long as an hour, affording great delight to the screaming spectators and plenty of time for round after round of bets. Cock fights were so popular that they were held throughout the year, often in conjunction with races and celebrations. Revolutionary Patriots nicknamed partisan leader Thomas Sumter the "Gamecock" because they saw in him the qualities of fearlessness and pugnaciousness they prized in their little feathered champions.

Other popular competitions emphasized not gore but hilarity. A part of most every fair was the grinning match, in which the contestants, their heads stuck through horse collars, tried to outdo each other in facial contortions. Then there was the whistling contest, in which the prize went not simply to the clearest whistler but to the best who could get through his tune without laughing, since all the

while he had to watch the antics of a comic. Apple diving was also good for a laugh. One such competition was announced in the **Gazette**, as "four Persons or more to eat six Apples each Person, out of a Pail of Water, each Person to have his Hands tied behind his back." Finally, everyone loved a good pig chase. A promising shoat, his tail bobbed and well greased, was pursued by would-be captors who tried to catch and hold him by the tail without touching any other part. What a spectacle it must have been, the contestants, spurred by the raucous yells of the onlookers, lunging and tumbling after the darting, squealing porker.

If we can judge by the frequency of announcements in the **Gazette**, no sport topped horse racing in popularity. In the early days of the colony, races were informal affairs, usually promoted by tavern keepers and run for short distances across open fields. By the 1740's, however, tracks were laid out, rules formalized, jockey clubs founded, and racing seasons established. Often accompanied by dances and cockfights, racing meets became highlights of the social season, and sizeable crowds gathered to cheer the likes of Brutus, Adolphus, Chestnut, and Centinel.

Since the number of competing horses was limited, races were prolonged by running heats, the winner of a majority of heats getting the prize. The usual number of heats was three and the distance run in each could be as much as four miles. Obviously, staying power counted for more than pure speed.

For variety, "hindmost" races were sometimes run. In these contests, each rider (usually the owner of a contending horse) mounted another competitor's animal, and the prize went to the one finishing last. The goal for each owner, therefore, was to beat his own entry and hope that all others did likewise. Here was the perfect race for that plodding nag that had no chance in a conventional run.

In keeping with the eighteenth-century's love of violence, races resembled running brawls. Bumping and in-cutting were approved tactics, and riders used punches and kicks, whips and spurs, not only on their mounts but on each other in an effort to intimidate or unseat their rivals.

If racing was the most popular sport, dancing was the favorite social diversion; indeed, the two often went hand in hand. Since knowledge of the current dances was an indispensable social skill, Charles Town abounded in dancing masters, who frequently sponsored balls in order to publicize their businesses and to show off the accomplishments of their pupils.

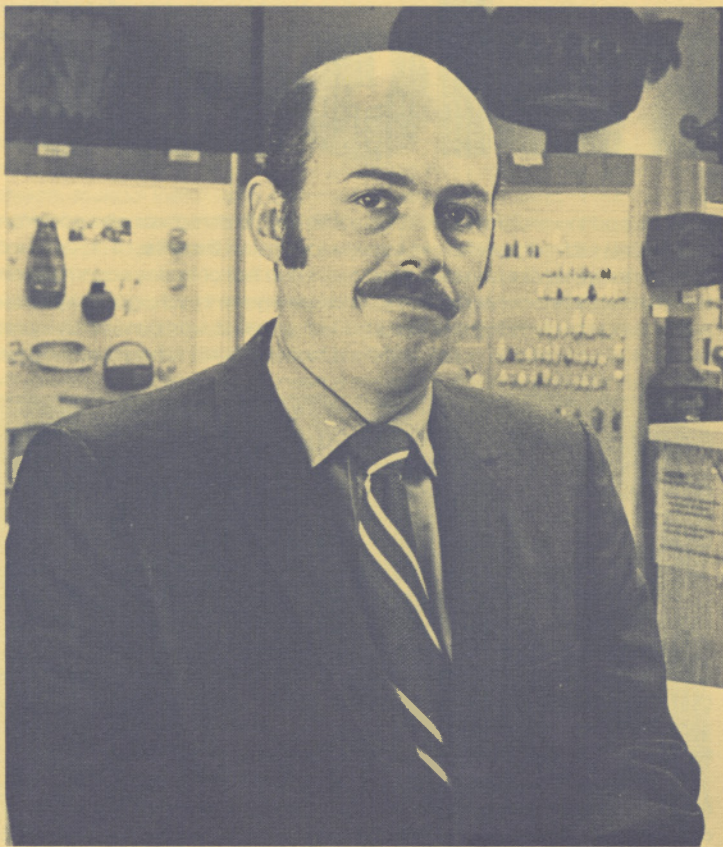
The pageantry of military musters and reviews likewise attracted considerable attention. These affairs took place on public holidays, such as the king's birthday, and during special celebrations, such as the announcement of a military victory or the arrival of a new governor. The festivities often continued into the evening, with bonfires, fireworks, and the illumination of the city by candles and lanterns placed in windows and on balconies.

Colonial South Carolinians lacked the abundance of leisure and the variety of entertainments we take pleasure in today, but when they played they played hard. Of one thing we can be certain: they lived life with gusto.

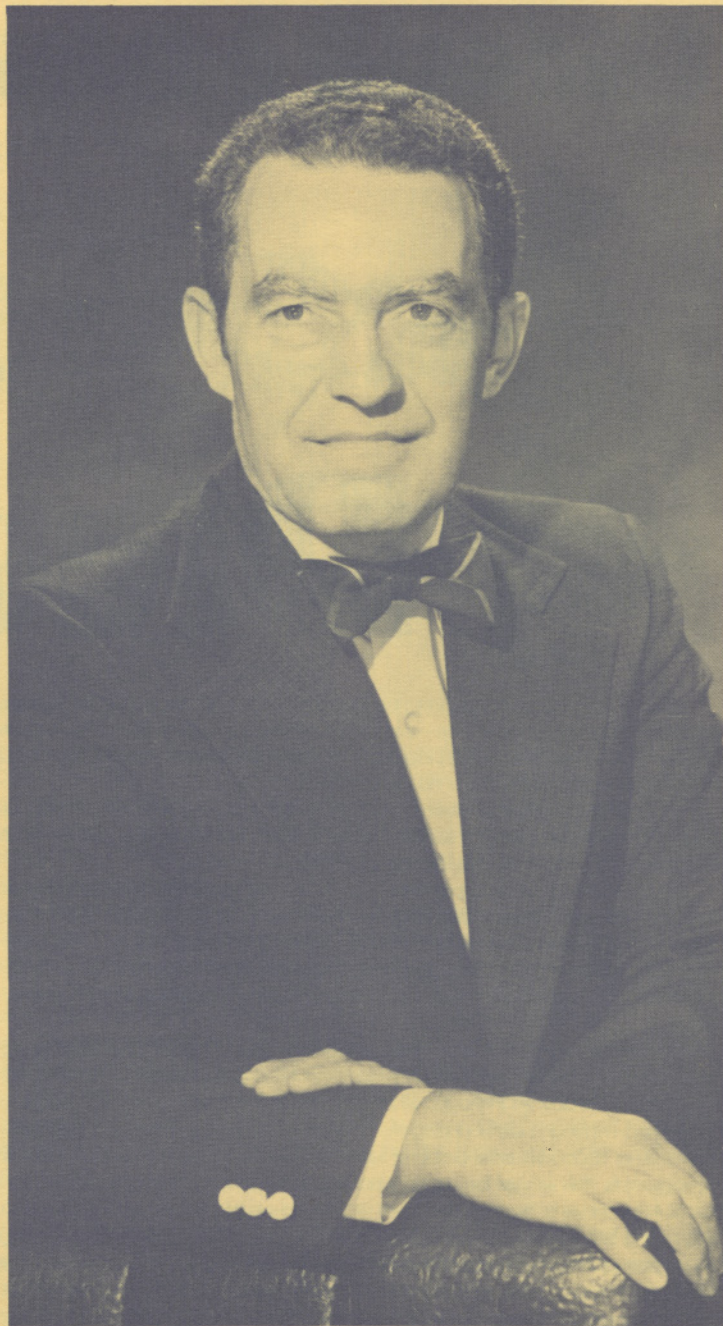
Workshop Series

The 1978-79 Technical Assistance Workshop Series, funded in part through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, is ready to kick off once again. The season opener, to be held October 24, will deal with topics on museum education. Sessions on fund raising for museums and on museum security and insurance will follow in February and April. Each workshop will feature a guest speaker backed up by in-state professionals. This year's line-up of speakers is of outstanding quality. Edward Munyer of the Florida State Museum will speak on museum education; William Alderson, director of the Museum Studies Program, University of Delaware, will address fund raising, and Jack Leo, consultant with the Texas Historical Commission, will discuss museum security and insurance.

The workshops will take place at Columbia College. Free of charge, they are open to employees, volunteers and trustees of museums throughout South Carolina. For further information please get in touch with Hedy Hartman, museum liaison, at the SCMC offices.



Edward A. Munyer



William T. Alderson

Rifle Update

In our last issue we featured a story about a curious flintlock rifle in our collection, which we surmised had been converted to military use by the state of South Carolina during the early days of the Civil War. A reasonable guess but, as it turned out, off target. Fortunately, one of our readers, Dr. H. L. Sutherland of Union, is an avid student and collector of South Carolina arms, and he supplied us with information identifying the rifle as a South Carolina contract weapon, manufactured for use by the state militia. He referred us to other rifles that share features with ours, particularly the half stock and the lathe-turned barrel. Not long after hearing from Dr. Sutherland, we ran across an M.A. thesis entitled "Arming the Militia: South Carolina Longarms, 1808-1903," by a University of Florida student, John H. Spangler. Spangler's research also suggests that many rifles produced under contract for the state were commercial models altered for military use.

Thanks to the information supplied by Dr. Sutherland and Mr. Spangler's thesis, we now have a correct identification of our rifle, which turns out to be even more interesting than we thought.



Museum Shorts

A new exhibit hall, the Earth in Time and Space, is presently under construction at the **Florence Museum**. The first science hall in the museum's forty-year history, it will summarize the physical development of the earth, the evolution of life and outstanding milestones in history. Director William W. Burns is presently working at it single-handed and estimates that it will take at least a year, if not longer, to finish the job.

More building is going on at **South Carolina State College** in Orangeburg, where a new \$1,125,000 teaching-research museum is under way, funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Springs Mills Foundation and a \$100,000 grant from the S.S. Kresge Foundation. The 16,207 square-foot structure will feature galleries, laboratories, studios, a lecture-conference room and a planetarium. In addition to presenting star shows, the planetarium will serve as a laboratory for audio-visual experiments in television, film making and slide-film presentations.

The University of South Carolina at Aiken is building a permanent art collection for exhibit purposes. At present the collection consists of two Kollwitz prints, two Degas prints, one woodcut from Titus Livius (dated 1511) and one purchase piece, a student drawing. By October these works will be on permanent display in the Student Activities Center.

Christmas is only three months away, and the **Historic Beaufort Foundation** is planning to celebrate the Yuletide Season in the late-18th-century manner at the **John Mark Verdler House**, 801 Bay Street, with decorations of the period supplied by the Garden Clubs of Beaufort. Period refreshments and a Christmas Shoppe featuring distinctive holiday gifts will round out the affair, which will take place from December 4 to December 9, 1978, between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. You may get further information by writing the Foundation at PO Box 11, Beaufort 29902, or by calling (803) 524-6334.

The Museum of York County in Rock Hill announces that three new exhibit areas will open this fall: the Hall of the Western Hemisphere, the Forest Life exhibit, and the Tidal Pool exhibit. The latter two will be in the Live Animal Center.

The Post-Courier Newspaper Museum, 134 Columbus Street, Charleston, has added to its exhibits a series of photos of the old buildings formerly occupied by the **Charleston Evening Post** and **The News and Courier**. It is also displaying a series of front pages from those two newspapers that highlight some of the top news events of our century. In the near future new construction will enclose the museum space and will thus create sufficient security to allow the museum to display for the first time a number of valuable objects from its collection.

A new museum opened in Barnwell last June. Located in the right wing of the newly-constructed Effie M. Fuller Center, the **Barnwell County Museum** features historical exhibits ranging from Indian times to the early 20th century. It also plans a program of changing exhibits dealing with history, science, and art. The Effie M. Fuller Center is located behind the County Library at the corner of Marlboro and Hagood Avenues.



Governor James B. Edwards, a dental surgeon by profession, was especially interested in one of the Commission's recent exhibits. The subject was teeth—in all shapes and sizes—but fossilized, of course. Here Governor Edwards and Rudy Mancke, curator of natural history, inspect a mastodon tooth.

Two pieces in State Art Collection traveling exhibits: "Outdoor Advertising," by John L. Petty (1977) and "Bulbous Vase," by Tom Turner (1970)





Antique Fizz

Here is a Coca-Cola bottle in the Museum Commission's collection that is just a bit unusual. It still contains the original beverage. The shape of the bottle, sans the familiar hobble skirt, indicates that it was manufactured before 1916. That drink has aged at least 62 years!

Makes you wonder what it tastes like.

New Publications

We are proud to announce the publication of two new booklets in our Museum Bulletin series. Both deal with natural history. Bulletin No. 2, entitled **Plants of the Eastatoo**, by C. Leland Rodgers of Furman University and George W. Shifflet, Jr., of Erskine College, catalogs the vegetation along the thirteen-mile course of Eastatoo Creek in northwestern South Carolina. Bulletin No. 3, **Fossil Locations in South Carolina**, by Jerry J. Howe and Andrew S. Howard, both of Converse College, is a comprehensive guide to sites where fossils may be collected. For easy reference, locations are listed alphabetically by county. Each listing gives the precise location of the site, the geologic epochs to which the exposed strata belong, and the types of fossils most commonly found. The authors have also included some useful tips on fossil collecting.

The two booklets should be handy references for both amateur and professional naturalists. Readers may order them from the South Carolina Museum Commission, PO Box 11296, Columbia, SC 29211. Please enclose \$2.00 for each copy ordered. Supplies are limited.

Drayton Hall Bibliography Published By National Trust

The history of the South Carolina Low Country and in particular of Drayton Hall is the subject of a new bibliography published by the Preservation Press of the National Trust.

Drayton Hall: An Annotated Bibliography provides new information on the outstanding 18th-century plantation house near Charleston that is a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the state of South Carolina. The book is divided into two sections: The first lists works available in the Charleston area that contain direct references to Drayton Hall and the Drayton family; the second indicates materials that provide background information on the South Carolina Low Country and its plantations. The bibliography is illustrated with numerous old sketches and photographs.

Considered one of the finest surviving examples of English Palladian-inspired architecture in the South, Drayton Hall (erected 1738-42) long has been of interest to architects and historians because of the sophistication of its design. Seven consecutive generations of the Drayton family owned the property before its acquisition in 1974 by the National Trust and South Carolina. Drayton Hall is operated with the advice of the Historic Charleston Foundation. Visitors to the 665-acre property northwest of Charleston on the Ashley River see a historic house that, although unfurnished, is otherwise relatively unaltered since the 18th century; the mansion was never modernized with gas lights, electricity, plumbing or any heating system other than its 13 original fireplaces.

William Bynum, the compiler of the **Bibliography**, carried out his work as research assistant at Drayton Hall under the South Carolina Governor's Intern Program during summer 1977.

A companion volume, **Drayton Hall: Archaeological Investigations at a Low Country Plantation**, will be published for the National Trust in August by the University Press of Virginia.

Drayton Hall: An Annotated Bibliography is available for \$5 (please add 50 cents postage if ordered by mail) from Drayton Hall (Dennis Lawson, Administrator), Route 4, Box 276, Charleston, S.C. 29407 or from Preservation Bookshop, National Trust, 740 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Members of the National Trust are entitled to a 10 percent discount.

Budget Increase Allows Staff Expansion

Our plans to create a state museum for South Carolina received a welcome boost when the legislature awarded us a budget increase of nearly \$69,000 for fiscal year 1978-79. Last year's budget was \$176,000; this year's is \$245,000. Most of the extra money is in salaries, which will permit us to add five people to our staff, but there are also additional funds for equipment.

The new staff positions will enable us to remedy a number of deficiencies in our program. The budget has grown to the point where a full-time bookkeeper is necessary. Such a person will also increase our capability to administer the federal grants we hope to use to finance much of our planning. In the area of collections, we have long suffered from the lack of a history curator. Although we plan to devote an important share of our eventual program to history, we have made relatively slow progress in that area because we have never had someone full time to manage the historical collection. Now we can hire that person. Finally, we have for the past two years borne responsibility for administering the provisions of the state's Underwater Salvage Law relating to fossils, but heretofore we have not had sufficient staff to fulfill that responsibility. The budget increase will allow us to hire three divers, whose tasks will be to survey the state's navigable waterways and assess their fossil resources, to collect specimens, and to monitor commercial salvage operations, if and when such operations are licensed. The extra money for equipment will be used to outfit the divers. With additional help in these critical areas, we look forward to significant progress in the coming year.

Museum Federation Supports SCMC

The following resolution was passed by the South Carolina Federation of Museums at the annual spring meeting, April 22, 1977

Whereas: The South Carolina Federation of Museums was organized in 1970 to represent and promote the best interests of the museums and the museum profession of the state; and

Whereas: The Federation holds two meetings annually for the conduct of its business, to provide training sessions to upgrade the accepted professional standards and procedures of its membership, and to consider all matters of concern to the museums of South Carolina; and

Whereas: the South Carolina Museum Commission has made clear its intention to establish a sharing relationship with all museums of the state by making available collections, resource persons, and other services and assistance; now

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the delegates assembled representing the museums of South Carolina located from the low country, through the central midlands to the upcountry, strongly reaffirm the support of The South Carolina Federation of Museums for the establishment of facilities in the capital city to serve as the South Carolina State Museum; and

Be It Further Resolved: That the South Carolina Federation of Museums believes that the establishment of a principal resource center in the areas of art, history, natural history, science and the rich heritage of the state in the logical location, the capital of South Carolina, will strengthen the museums of the state by providing needed assistance, and

Be It Further Resolved: That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the South Carolina Federation of Museums and that a copy be circulated to the news media of the state.

Adopted this the twenty-second day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Seven and of the Independence of the Republic Two Hundred and One.

The Commission and the Federation have goals in common, and discussions are currently taking place toward the establishment of a closer working relationship between the two organizations.

Traveling Exhibition Program

Speaking of exhibits, the traveling exhibition program is going strong and growing! In addition to the thirteen shows already touring the state, we have added several new ones, including the 1978 purchases for the State Art Collection, State Art Collection Sculpture, South Carolina Fossils and the Life and Times of Mary McLeod Bethune.

The exhibitions may be borrowed by any secure museum, bank or library in the state. We encourage every community to use this service. For further information, please contact Hedy Hartman, museum liaison, at the SCMC offices.

New Exhibit Designer Hired

We are pleased to announce that Annabelle Lea Usher joined the Museum Commission staff on August 18 as our new part-time exhibit designer. Mrs. Usher, a native of Salisbury, N. C., brings to the job training and experience in design and the visual arts. She holds a B.F.A. degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts, a state-supported school of dance, music, drama and design in Winston-Salem.

During her years at N.C.S.A. and after her graduation, she acquired considerable experience in theatrical design, working with, among others, the North Carolina Dance Theater, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the Alice Condodina Dance Company and, most recently, the American Scenic Company in Greenville, S.C.

In addition to her theatrical work, Mrs. Usher is a practicing artist, with numerous acrylics, watercolors, wall hangings and sculptures to her credit. Her watercolor "Flying Eagle" won third prize in the WSOC-TV Bicentennial Art Contest in Charlotte, N.C. She continues to do free-lance art work.

Aside from art, Mrs. Usher lists as one of her major interests the raising of black Siamese cats. She and her husband H. K. Usher, an equipment operator for Daniel Construction Company, live in Hopkins.

Mrs. Usher replaces Mr. Rick Baty, who, after doing fine work for the Commission, has taken full-time employment elsewhere. We welcome Mrs. Usher to the staff and look forward to some exciting exhibits in the State House and Archives during the coming months.

Museum Happenings Around The State

Designed to keep readers in touch with museum activities statewide, the Museum Happenings column is a regular feature of our newsletter. In it we print information on special events, exhibits, and programs sent to us by museums and museum-related institutions in our state.

University of South Carolina

Aiken

October 30-November 20
Jean Gallagher/Paintings

November 22-December 15
Jane Nodine/Students' Work

Barnwell County Museum

Barnwell

October-December
National Register Photographs
Agriculture in South Carolina in the 1930's
and 1940's (photographs)
South Carolina Fossils

December
State Art Collection-Oils, Watercolors
and Ceramics

Belton City Museum

Belton

October-December

Indian artifacts of Anderson County
collected by Mr. Jim Hill

Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County

Camden

November

Sonny Baines & Art Center
South Carolina Wildlife--paintings and
photographs

December

Camden Art Association Exhibit--mixed media

Historic Columbia Foundation

Columbia

December 5-8
Christmas Candlelight Tours, 5:30-8:30 pm.

University of South Carolina

Columbia

September 1977-September 1979
Fossils of Vertebrates and Sharks

October 1978-October 1979

What's in a Name? The Origins of
Mineral Names

October 9-November 22

South Carolina Political Campaigns,
1787-1979

November 3-22
Indonesian Batiks

November 29-December 11
Liv Feng. Traditional Chinese brush
paintings by a contemporary Taiwanese
artist.

December 20-February 20
A.B. Frost. Prints and illustrations by
America's foremost recorder of the sport-
ing scene.

December-January
America During the Depression: Farm
Security Administration
Photographs 1935-1942

December-February
Mineral Photographs: Mica and the Microscope.

Gibbes Art Gallery
Charleston

October 10-November 19
Exhibit: Art in the Lives of South Carolinians

October 18-November 26
Exhibit: Carolina Art Association
Acquisitions, 1977-1978

November 1-29
Exhibit: Byron Baldwin - photographs

November 22-December 13
Exhibit: Susan Hanna

December 1-21
Exhibit: Survey Intaglio: Printmaking,
Pratt Graphics

December 1-31
Exhibit: Rosenthal Prints

December 15-January 7
Exhibit: Michael Tyzack

Presbyterian College - James H. Thomason Gallery
Clinton

November
Works from the State Art Collection

Florence Museum
Florence

November
Alvin Staley and Brenda, paintings by a
black Florence artist and his wife

December
Ronald Cheek, paintings and pastels

South Carolina State College - Whittaker Gallery
Orangeburg

November 5-22
Photographs from the State Art Collection

Natural History Prints from the collection of the South Carolina Museum
Commission

November 26-December 15
Selected Prints and Drawings by Art Majors

Museum of York County
Rock Hill

November
Photography Exhibition: John Williams and
Richard Johnson

December
Christmas Show of Vernon Grant's Santas.

Winthrop College - Winthrop Gallery of Art
Rock Hill

October 1-November 12
Concepts of Self in African Art

November 30-December 17
The Springs Traveling Art Show: prize-
winning works by North and South Carolina
artists selected from the Springs Annual Exhibition.

Converse College - Milliken Gallery
Spartanburg

November
Allan Ludwig - Photographs

December
Converse Faculty Show

Wofford College - The Sandor Teszler Library
Spartanburg

November 19-December 17
The 34th White House News Photographer's
Association Exhibit (A Library of Congress
Traveling Exhibit)

South Carolina
Museum Commission
P. O. Box 11296
Columbia, S. C. 29211

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